

Applicants hereby respectfully petition for an extension of time of two months to respond to the Office Action dated December 14, 2005, on the above-identified application. This extension extends the time to respond from March 14, 2006, to May 15, 2006, May 14, 2006 being a Sunday, and this petition, together with an amendment and the requisite fees, are being filed concurrently with a certificate of mailing on or before the latter date. This request for an extension of time would allow this Amendment to be submitted five months after the date of the Office Action.

Accordingly, the appropriate fee for extension of time is that stated in 37 C.F.R. Section 1.17(a)(2) for a large entity, which is a \$450.00 extension fee for response within two months.

After this Amendment, 29 claims remain pending, 6 of which are independent. In the original application 29 claims were paid for, 5 of which were independent. Accordingly, a fee in the amount of \$100, for one additional independent claim, is due to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office at this time.

The total thus due for this Amendment is \$550.00 for the extension of time, and a check totaling \$550.00 is enclosed herewith. The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is also authorized to charge any additional fees required to secure the entry of this Amendment Under Rule 1.111, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 18-0882.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 4 of this Amendment.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 14 of this Amendment.